



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

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In re
Application of: Howard Tanner et al.

Serial No.: 09/108,189

Examiner: J. Thissel

Filed: July 1, 1998

Group Art Unit: 3763

For: AN INTRODUCER SHEATH FOR USE DURING A SURGICAL PROCEDURE

Attorney Docket No.: 23660-00611

AMENDMENT AND RESPONSE

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
BOX NON-FEE AMENDMENTS
Washington, DC 20231

Dear Sir:

In response to the Office Action dated April 25, 2001, please amend the above-identified patent application as follows:

IN THE CLAIMS: ✓

Please amend Claims 82 and 101 as follows:

82. (Thrice Amended) An introducer sheath device for use during a surgical procedure for introducing surgical components into a vessel into a patient, said introducer sheath device comprising:

a housing having a passageway that accommodates the passage of the surgical components therein;

sealing means for preventing the loss of blood from the vessel during the insertion and subsequent removal of surgical components during the surgical procedure, wherein